

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION & RECREATION  
JOINT POWERS BOARD MEETING  
December 12, 2014**

**Members Present:** Eric Banks, Dave Baumgart, Andy Boersma, Bill Borth, Matt Dawson, Scott Guptill, Ross Magnuson, Audrey Nelsen, Bonnie Pehrson, Rachel Skretvedt, Charlene Stevens, Darin Strand

**Staff Present:** Steve Brisendine, Brad Bonk, Troy Ciernia, Tammy Rudningen, Becky Sorenson, Jena Tollefson, Pam Vruwink, Jodi Wambeke

**Guests Present** Tony LaPatka, Stuart Crosby

Chairman Eric Banks opened the meeting by greeting everyone. After introductions, Eric introduced Tony LaPatka to present his request on behalf of the Willmar Curling Club for permission to serve liquor at the upcoming BonSpiel tournament on January 10. Mr. LaPatka stated that KEC will be in charge of sales. They are expecting 20 to 22 teams for the tournament. Andy Boersma made a motion and Bonnie Pehrson seconded to approve the request. Motion carried.

Steve Brisendine introduced Stuart Crosby who presented the Park Plan that staff and SRF have been working on. This plan includes Robbins Island, Swansson Field complex, Rice, Northside, Lincoln and Ramblewood Parks.

**Robbins Island:** The plan is to make Robbins Island into a regional park by improving access to the Island. Improving traffic flow on the Island by creating a turnaround at the west end by the fishing pier and making the north section of the road a two way is the plan. The south section of the road would be removed and replaced with walking paths. Adding more parking spaces next to the new two-way road was in the plan. A question was asked about parking for the proposed amphitheatre. The response was that additional parking will be added. For extra large functions, off-site parking may need to be used. The plan includes replacing the existing shelters with three new shelters (two four-season and one three-season shelter). On the south side of the beach would be a boathouse/dock facility for paddleboat, canoe and kayak rental.

Water concerns at the Island were expressed regarding decreased beach use. The main problem with water quality is due to the large population of geese. The Public Works Department has been working on that this past summer which has seemed to decrease the geese and improved water quality for a longer period of the summer. Another proposed use of the Island is for a winter ice rink near the proposed three season shelter along with a sledding area.

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**Swansson Field Complex:** Re-figuring North Swansson away from the pinwheel set up was discussed. Blue Field would be rotated to face the plaza with facilities, food concessions. South Swansson – extend parking lot into the skate park. Add another shelter. Keep Lions as part of the complex as the new dog park. Add new facilities between the Aquatic Center to serve the soccer fields. There is room for expansion at the Aquatic Center for items like a Lazy River.

**Northside Park:** Field stays the same, adding a trail to the east side; move playground area to the south closer to the field, pickle ball courts and a half basketball court.

**Rice Park:** Remove wading pool and add a splash pad. Remove tennis courts and make area into an open play area. Add a half basketball court and move the horseshoe courts.

**Miller Park:** Add two more tennis courts (replacing Rice courts) move baseball field home plate to the northwest (using Jefferson Parking lot for fans) add basketball court, remodel the existing shelter and playground.

**Lincoln Park:** The City's plan in the near future is to connect 9<sup>th</sup> Street from Minnesota Avenue to Trott Avenue (east side of existing former school building) On the east side to the new street would be a hockey rink/multi purpose area with a skate park to the east of the hockey area. A new shelter north of the skate park would be used as warming house for the ice rink. The softball field would be re-configured to put home plate in the southeast corner (currently in the southwest corner)

Another park in the plan is Ramblewood Nature Park. Plans for that include planting more native grasses, creating a board walk across the slough area, restoring native aspects to the park. Expanding the parking lot to accommodate more users is also in the plan.

Andy Boersma asked if there was a plan as to what park would be the start. The Council is being asked to approve the plan and proceed from there regarding which park to start with. Developing priorities is a necessary part of this park plan.

Rachel Skretvedt asked if we are balancing the needs of each group. The response is that this plan has done a good job of evaluating key areas.

The question was asked if the field layout, as presented, is good enough to facilitate tournaments. No one voiced any problems with the proposed plan.

What happens to Garfield Ice Rink? Continue to use but funds would not be allocated in the future possibly.

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Darin Strand asked what other cities have been doing to keep up their parks without having major expenses. Those types of comparisons can be added to the proposal.

Ross Magnuson asked what the approximate cost would be. The most expensive items would be play grounds, shelters and lights.

Bonnie Pehrson asked if there are grants available for us to pursue. Legacy grants would be good for Robbins Island. Community foundation grants would be good for Swansson.

Since there were no further questions or comments, Steve thanked Stuart for his presentation. Steve also announced that this is Bonnie Pehrson's last meeting and thanked her for her years of service on the Joint Powers Board.

The next meeting will be January 23, 2015.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.